

THE ANTIQUARY.

SATURDAY, JULY 29th, 1871.

ON A CIRCLE OF STONES, CALLED THE DAWNS MEN, NEAR THE LAND'S END.

WHEN we contemplate the rude works of our remote ancestors, whether it be a cromlech, or a simple circle of stones, or a mere fragment of a fragile urn, we are forcibly reminded of that time, when the people who inhabited these isles were a savage and unlettered race, subsisting principally on the produce of the chase, and divided into various tribes, all of warlike dispositions, and constantly at strife the one with the other.

Considering the length of time that has intervened since this was the state of society in Britain, it is really surprising that so many monuments of that early period are still existing to gratify and encourage the archaeologist. But so it is, the rude structures of stone and earth have survived, and will survive far longer than the more delicate architectural fragment; and the custom prevalent in early times of burying the personal ornaments of the deceased in his own grave, has been the means of affording an almost inexhaustible mine of information to the prehistoric inquirer.

Some of the most hoary of these early pre-Roman remains are the circles of stones, generally consisting of a group of upright monoliths arranged somewhat on a circular plan. We say "somewhat," because there are really very few so-called circles quite round, although they may appear to be so to the eye, but when carefully measured the length of their transverse diameters will in each case be found to differ a few feet in nine circles out of ten. The idea of thus arranging stones seems to have been common throughout a vast area, for we find similar circles in foreign lands, as well as in almost all parts of our own country; but it must be borne in mind that this similarity in shape does not always show a similarity in design, and a plan so obvious and convenient was adapted for a variety of purposes. Thus it seems to us unwise of theorists to say that *all* circles of stone are sepulchral, or that *all* circles are temples, or places of judicial meetings, or that *all* circles were covered with earth, or that *every* circle originally enclosed and formed the base of some barrow or tumulus. Those circles that are found surrounding barrows are of course sepulchral in their purpose, but to claim, without any further proof, a similar use for all other circles, however situated, is in our opinion an untenable and unwarranted conclusion. They were probably erected for various objects, for besides the grouping of stones around barrows in a circular line, enclosures similarly formed are recorded to have been used for purposes of song or bardic celebrations, and we learn that judicial ceremonies also took place within like circular spaces, bounded by upright stones. Then again, although we cannot believe that the centre of our large sized circles was invariably occupied by a mound of earth, the mere fact of the ground in the interior of any circle being of the same level as that of the exterior, does not entirely prove against the place being used for burial purposes, inasmuch as we

have read of urns and other remains being found close beside the stones, showing them to be in such cases, like the simple *ménhir*, monumental in their character.

In the extreme west of Cornwall in a peninsular terminating in the Land's End of our modern maps, and the Bolerium of the ancients, lies the circle of stones usually called the Dawns Mén, otherwise *The Merry Maidens*, or *The Dancing Stones*. It is distant about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Penzance, one of the most thriving towns in the West of England. Lying close to the public road, and one frequently taken by tourists when on their way to the Logan Rock, or rocking-stone, this circle seldom escapes the notice of those who really care for such like objects of antiquity. The land on which it is situate is arable, and a footpath runs right through the circle. From its contiguity to a farm called Bolleit, it is often known as Bolleit circle, although it really stands on the Rosemoddress estate. Hence some have named it Rosemoddress circle. Borlase called it the Rosemodreury circle, he gives a drawing of it, but no description.

Near at hand are two granite obelisks, which on coming from Penzance will be seen before arriving at the Dawns Mén. These are the *Pipers* ultimately connected, as we shall presently see, with the legendary tales connected with the circle. One of these monoliths is upwards of 15 feet high, the other rather more than 13 feet. They stand about 300 yards apart.

At present the Dawns Mén consists of nineteen upright stones, some of which have been raised within the last few years, for on referring to Edmonds' "Land's End District," p. 15, published separately in 1862, and previously in the "Archæologia Cambrensis," three are prostrate. When we visited the spot three years since, we found by measurement that the average height of the stones was from 4 feet to 4 feet 6 inches. The space between each stone, as arranged around the circular area, roughly about 70 feet in diameter, varies from 20 feet in some places to 12 feet in others.

The account of the Dawns Mén given by Hals, the Cornish historian, having been written between the years 1685 and 1736, is interesting, particularly as he mentions the existence at that time of a central stone now no longer to be seen. It is as follows—

"Upon Boscawen Downs, some of which was lately the lands of Mr. Christopher Davis, stands a monument called Dance Meyns, that is to say the dance stones, which are nineteen pyramidal stones about six feet high above ground, set in a round circle, distant from each other about 12 feet, having in the centre one pitched far bigger than the rest; a little to the north of those are two admirable great stones in perpendicular manner, much bigger than the rest, those are vulgarly called the Pipers. But since it is not probable that those stones were either dancers or pipers, I take the common appellation, dance meyns, only by the dialect to be a corruption of dans meyns, *i.e.* men's stones, that is to say, stones set up in memory of once so many famous men that lived in those parts, or lie interred there, before the sixth century. Mr. Davis aforesaid informed me, that contiguous with those dans meynes, he caused not long since divers barrows of earth to be carried abroad in order to manure his lands, in several of which barrows he found two or three urns or earthen pots, sound and firm, having in them pieces of bones or ashes."

It should be noted that these central pillars are often

found within stone circles of this kind. At Boscawen-un, not far distant, and in the same parish of St. Buryan, is a central monolith, now in an oblique position, but probably originally upright in the circle.*

When Maton made his tour through the western counties, towards the close of the last century, he seems to have been disappointed in the appearance of the Dawns Mén, due perhaps to the common classification of these remains with the great Wiltshire monument, Stonehenge, to which none of these smaller circles can bear any just comparison. He observes—"We had the mortification to find the circle of stones to which our guide conducted us very inferior in extent and grandeur to what we had been taught to expect. The appellation given these stones by the vulgar, is *The Merry Maidens*, on account of a whimsical tradition that they were no other than a circle of young women transferred into stone for dancing on a Sabbath day. There are two stones in a field on the opposite side of the road; they seem to appertain to the circle, the proper name of which I guess, from Borlase's account, to be Bolleit."—(Vol. I., p. 211.)

The tradition alluded to by Maton is still current, and the circle at the present time frequently goes by the name of *The Merry Maidens*. In Mr. Robert Hunt's "Popular Romances of the West of England," the legend is thus briefly, yet graphically, narrated—"One Sabbath evening, some of the thoughtless maidens of the neighbouring village, instead of attending vespers, strayed into the fields, and two evil spirits, assuming the guise of pipers, began to play some dance tunes. The young people yielded to the temptation; and, forgetting the holy day, commenced dancing. The excitement increased with the exercise, and soon the music and the dance became extremely wild; when, lo, a flash of lightning from the clear sky transfixed them all, the tempters and the tempted, and there in stone they stand."—(1st Series, p. 193.)

Similar tales to this are told of the Hurlers, three circles in the eastern part of Cornwall, and also of other upright stones in the same county. The term *Dancing Stones* may have been given to the Dawns Mén from the area enclosed being circular, and so suited for dancing. But it is only reasonable to expect that among a superstitious and ignorant people, as the Cornish a few centuries ago are known to have been, tales of this kind would take root and be engrafted on the minds of the inhabitants. Even elsewhere, the most absurd legends have been handed down to us, accounting for the arrangement of some of these circular megalithic structures, from Stonehenge downwards.†

A stone's throw from the Dawns Mén, on the opposite

side of the road, stands one of those curious remnants of antiquity—a holed-stone. The country people call them *crick stones*, from the belief that the passing of the body through the hole will cure rheumatism and pains in the back. It would, however, be rather difficult to pass through this one near the Dawns Mén, as the hole is only 5½ in. in diameter, but some of the orifices are much larger than this; a holed-stone, called the Mén-an-tol, a few miles to the north, is 1 ft. 7 in. in diameter. The Dawns Mén holed-stone is 6 ft. high; it is laminar in shape and tapers towards the top. Of course this stone, like others of the same class, has been associated with sacrificial rites, supposed by some to have been carried on at the adjacent circle, but like all other of the startling Druidical observances advocated by theorists, there is not the smallest atom of proof in justification thereof.

We refrain from expressing any opinion respecting the probable use of this circle of stones, merely stating, however, that there is not the slightest evidence, in proof of the too oft repeated assertion, that the central area was once occupied by a huge mound of earth and stones. Its present appearance certainly does not warrant any such conclusion, and there is no early record, we are sure, in confirmation of that idea. As an example of a pure monolithic circle, it has been justly called "a little gem," and of all the other circular arrangements of stones in the adjoining district, in which there are several, none can compete with it, either in size or preservation. Time out of mind the Dawns Mén has been a puzzle to the learned who have passed by Bolleit; and that it may be preserved in its present perfect state for many centuries yet to come, must be the ardent wish of every true archaeologist.

EXCURSION OF THE BEDFORDSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

[Concluded from last number.]

ROMAN roads usually went straight from point to point: to the N. of Lincoln the Ermine Street is straight for nearly twenty miles. They did not diverge for trifling obstacles; but when a hill was absolutely impracticable, zigzags were adopted, and at the summit the road continued its direction.

Being elevated above the surface of the ground a road of this sort had the appearance of a bank, and the name "agger" may be found applied to it in Roman writings, while in our own day roads of the kind traversing unfrequented localities go by the name of the "dyke," the "Devil's dyke," or with some other prefix, their original use having been entirely forgotten. Such is still the appearance of the *Watling Street* near Weedon, of the ancient Roman road from Marlborough, a few miles to the east of Bath of Ermine Street, south of Lincoln, and perhaps of many others; in fact, a first-class Roman road was just a wall broad in proportion to its height, extending across the country; its top paved and gravelled for traffic; and therefore to it the modern Americanism of "building a road" would have been most strictly applicable. The same idea would appear to have been present to the minds of the ancients, "*Inde ad rusum munendam per quam unam via esse poterat*," says Livy in Hannibal's passage of the Alps, and Horace, I believe, uses the expression "*viam munire per undas*."

All Roman roads were not made with this care; some of the layers were occasionally wanting, and those were besides

* For an account of the Boscawen-un and Bookednan circles, see a paper by the author in *The Reliquary*, October, 1869.

† Speaking of the Callernish circle in the Isle of Lewis, one of the Hebrides, a writer in the "Proceedings of the Society of the Antiquaries of Scotland," remarks—"On the Ordnance Map, the Gaelic name of *Tursachan* is attached to each circle, a word which, if it does not literally mean 'mourners' is understood to convey that idea when rendered into English. This term is in accordance with that idea that these circles were sepulchral, and is otherwise appropriate as describing the effect produced on the imagination by the appearance on the wild heath of what, Sir Walter Scott calls 'these phantom forms of antediluvian giants.' Little information, however, can be derived from such local appellations, what are 'mourners' in Lewis, are 'Merry Maidens' at Penzance, each locality indulging in its own fancy, but the Gaelic *Tursachan* seems to be the more natural term to be applied to objects which every one must feel are more like petrified spectres, than any happy Lewis or Cornish damsels of the present day at least."—(Vol. II., p. 381.)

vicinal private country roads which were not paved or strata. There were also probably roads paved imperfectly, which, though not laid out by the Romans, were adopted by them and extensively used. To one of these I shall have subsequently to call your attention; but with respect to the great *Watling Street*, we need encumber ourselves with none of these difficulties. It was one of the principal, if not the principal, of the Roman ways in Britain: if, therefore, in any place it is seen to be detached we are justified in expecting in the most marked degree all the Roman features.

The *Watling Street* passed by the great municipal city of *Verolamium* at xxi. Roman miles from London and in its course to *Lactodorum* or *Towcester* (an unquestioned station, both from the name and from the Roman remains which have been found there) the stations of *Durocobrivæ* and *Magiovinium* were passed. Has it been found between these two points as a raised bank with the features I have named?

There is not a tittle of evidence to this effect excepting what has been collected by the late Mr. Monkhouse in a paper read before this society ten years ago. A local antiquary, name not given, found a little to the east of *Kensworth Church* "a layer of stones which did not appear to have been the foundation of buildings, not having been squared off or worked in any way, but appearing as paving stones placed in the ground as a foundation for other stones to cover them." On this very slender foundation Mr. Monkhouse proceeds to argue that the *Watling Street*, of which this was the statumen (what had become of the superstructure?), passed from *Market Street*, about a mile to the W. of its present line; but I cannot accept this conclusion. A road so important passing across a thinly peopled and barren district such as that to the W. of *Dunstable* would have been traceable by far stronger indications; in the absence of such, the names *Market Street*, *Fenny Stratford*, *Stony Stratford*, *Old Stratford*, give us the general direction of the road, and it is probable that its layers of statumen, rudus, and pavement exist to this day beneath the great highway. Should the Local Government Act reach *Dunstable* some further evidence on this point may turn up, as the main street is still termed *Watling Street*. When passing along the *Bedford* and *Bletchley Railway* I have often looked with curiosity at a bridge which spans the line at *Fenny Stratford* and wished that I could interrogate the excavators as to what they met with on cutting through the road.

The *Watling Street* has been a great and unmistakeable fact, and, as it cannot have conjured itself off bodily, nor is it probable that it has been removed so cannily as to leave not a vestige behind, there is the strongest of negative evidence that it still exists beneath the dust and macadam of its successor.

And now for the station of *Durocobrivæ*.

Roman towns and stations were of various sizes from the great cities *Verolamium*, *Uriconium*, or *Silchester*, with their 100 to 200 acres of extent within the walls, to the small military stations on the Wall of *Hadrian* of 4 to 6 acres, the great cities were irregular in form, the smaller *castra* almost always quadrangular, the highways passing generally close to, but not through, them. In the latter ages of the Empire most of the stations were walled, and so peculiar was the style of the masonry that, in most instances, a fragment of the wall will give to a practised eye indisputable evidence of Roman architecture.

The evidence to which we look for ascertaining the position of the stations is to be found in the *Itineraries*. Of these that of *Antonius* is the great authority, though the one given by *Richard* of *Cirencester*, notwithstanding the suspicious manner in which it was discovered, is generally accepted by antiquaries.

The Roman mile, it should be premised, was about 12-13ths of the modern mile.

From *Londinium* to *Uriconium* or *Wroxeter* along the *Watling Street* is 'about 144½ English or 156 Roman miles, to which the *Itinerary* of *Antonius* very nearly corresponds. I shall take as my starting point, however, the great municipal city of *Verolamium*, at xxi. Roman miles from *Londinium* on this same road, and at the other extremity *Lactodorum* as equally well ascertained. In fact the site and boundaries of the former are as well known as those of the *Midland Terminus*. Between these two points lay 38 English or 41 Roman miles along the *Watling Street*.

In this portion of the road we are particularly fortunate in the *Itineraries*. It is passed over four times—viz., in the 2nd, the 6th, and the 8th *Iters* of *Antonius*, and in the 1st *Iter* of *Richard*. The former gives the station of which we are in quest under the name of *Durocobrivæ*, the latter under that of *Forum Dianæ*. This does not render it necessary that there should have been two stations: the *Sulloniaca* of one author is the *Sulomagus* of the other. *Cantiopolis* and *Durovernum* (*Canterbury*) were, we are told, the same, and so, I believe, were *Pontes* and *Bibractæ*.

I will now give the distances in a tabulated form from *Verolamium*—

	<i>Durocobrivæ</i> .	<i>Magiovinium</i> .	<i>Lactodorum</i> .
<i>Antonius</i> 2nd <i>Iter</i> m.p.	xii.	xii.	xvii.
" 6th "	xii.	xii.	xvi.
" 8th "	xii.	xii.	not named.
<i>Richard</i> 1st <i>Iter</i>	xii.	xii.	xii.

From the carelessness of transcribers errors are frequently in the Roman numerals, as in the statement of the distance of *Lactodorum* by *Richard*, and in the 6th *It.* of *Antonius*; but still in the face of a statement so far congruous it appears wonderful that antiquaries should have endeavoured to torture the text to another meaning, to transpose the stations, or to place the one of which we are in quest (and which must have laid close to the road) at *Berkhampstead*! *Hertford*! or elsewhere.

Taking the points with which we began our search it is evident that *Durocobrivæ* lay on the *Watling Street* at xii. m.p. from *Verolamium*, and xxix. m.p. from *Lactodorum*. This pins us down within narrow limits; but it is not all.

In each of the *Iters* *Magiovinium* is named and in last of the four at the same distance, xii. m.p. from *Durocobrivæ*, or, not to anticipate the solution, xxiv. from *Verolamium*, xvii. from *Lactodorum*. Could *Magiovinium* then be distinctly made out, the problem would be still nearer discovery.

And this I am justified in saying can be done. At *Dropshort*, about ½ mile S.E. of *Fenny Stratford*, has been found every evidence of a Roman station that is usually considered conclusive; in the field called *Chester's Piece* coins have been found by hundreds, remains of Roman tiles, pottery, and vases are scattered about, foundations are to be traced in various directions, and excavations will probably ere long throw further light on the subject. *Magiovinium* was probably a fortified *castrum* of a few acres in extent, and the distance is as nearly as possible that given xxiv. m.p. from *Verolamium*.

It seems to me then that little remains but to bisect this xxiv. m.p., and we have *Durocobrivæ*, and the point of bisection would occur about the Cross of *Dunstable*, xii. m.p. to the ascertained station on either side. To carry the station to *Maiden Bower*, as Mr. Monkhouse has done, would make the numbers xi. and xiii. m.p. *Totternhoe*, which others have conjectured may be the place, the numbers would be about x. and xiv.

Thus far the *Itineraries*. Should the unequivocal remains of a *castrum*, walls, gates, &c., be discovered a mile or two N. or S. of the line we have named, and should it yield on excavation the usual traces of Roman occupation (an event most improbable) we must admit a remarkable instance of consentient error; otherwise their plain testimony must be accepted.

I spoke of a peculiar class of roads, of which the most remarkable instance, the Icknield Street, crosses the town of Dunstable—probably, from the tumuli which mark its course, a route of the most extreme antiquity, far from straight in its course, though from the names met with along it, evidently at some point a paved way or *via strata*, the intersection of this road with the *Watling Street* may have been another inducement to the formation of a station. Other indications of a Roman station are to be found in walls, Roman building materials, coins, ornaments, implements, and pottery. Now, as respects the first, there is no remnant of wall at Dunstable, nor is there any local name indicating its former existence; and, as the wall or its remains are generally the most prominent indications of an ancient Roman *castrum*, I am rather impelled to the inference that the station was simply an open forum or market; something between a town and a village to which the term of Cicero would apply, "*Is quum prætores circum omnia fora sectaretur*."—In Verrem Act. 11 lxx. The other Bedfordshire station of *Salinae* was probably of the same kind. There is no trace of a wall; but, the ground being uncovered, abundant remains are found; it was protected by one if not two camps close at hand, and *Forum Diana* may have been protected in the same way by summer camps in the old British fortifications of Maiden Bower or Totternhoe. The name in the one place would favour the conjecture; a few coins also have been found there, and a well, probably military, is close at hand; in the other the square form of entrenchment and its size show traces of Roman handiwork—perhaps a regular *castrum* may have been unnecessary so near to the great *Verolanium* and in a district so thoroughly subjugated.

Speaking of the repairs and restorations at Dunstable Church the Rev. Mr. Hose writes me as follows:—"Some thin square bricks or rather thick tiles I have remarked amongst the rubble which filled up the anterior of the walls, within the internal and external courses of ashlar work, some of which I have thought were Roman; but they were the property of the builder and have been used again for the same purpose or carted away."

Some of these may, I hope, ere long turn up; a barrow load of this material would be worth pages of disquisition.

Coins and pottery, too, have been found, but through the want of any local forces of collection have become dispersed—it is hoped that these may be forthcoming in the future.

Such is the present state of the evidence as respects *Durocobrivæ*, much that is negative and a fair proportion of the positive. It must be remembered, as a bar to local discoveries, that the old station does not lie in a field to be excavated at pleasure; but that it is, and has been for centuries, covered with houses.

One word more and I have done. It has appeared to Mr. Monkhous as a fatal objection that there is no mention of Dunstable in Domesday Book, but this I do not consider of moment, as twenty other undoubted stations are in the same case, and to say nothing of London and Winchester, which are both omitted; *Verolanium* and *Sulloniæ* are not named.

Originally a small station, *Forum Diana*, may have become altogether deserted, as were many castra in the reign of Alfred, until the same reasons which had induced the Romans to build induced Henry I. to rebuild at the convenient intersection of the *Watling* and *Icknield Streets*.

DUNSTABLE AND THE WATLING STREET.

It is for others to-day, if they can do so, to evolve from the many Celtic monuments which surround this interesting spot the traces of a dawning civilisation, and to throw a ray still further back into the twilight of primeval antiquity; my task confines itself to the traces of the mighty empire which first imparted culture to this island, whose legionaries first penetrated the forests, drained the morasses, and spanned the rivers of Britain, saw the painted young bar-

barians at play, and dreamt perhaps of further conquest in an Atlantis beyond the western sea. The crumbling records and decaying citadels of Rome yet remain the last receding beacons from which we can gaze and speculate upon the shadowy past. We are in quest of the site of a Roman station and of a Roman road; the station is that of *Durocobrivæ* or *Forum Diana*; the road the ancient *Watling Street*. Let us take the road first, for if we can clearly establish its course it must infallibly conduct us to the station. But, first of all, it is well to know what a Roman road was like. It was formed as follows:—Two shallow trenches having been dug at 13 to 15 feet distance from each other, the intervening loose soil was removed till a firm foundation was reached; on this was carefully placed a mass of rather large stones termed the *statumen*; over this a layer of rubble called the *rudus*; over this, again, a layer of concrete termed the *nucleus*; and on the top the *pavimentum*, *summa crusta*, or pitching, consisting occasionally of selected blocks most carefully jointed and fitted, sometimes of stones set on edge (as in part of the ancient Fosseway): there were occasionally footpaths on the side.

Being seldom required for carriages, roads of this width, though narrow according to our ideas, were quite sufficiently wide for the nature of the traffic, their durability is remarkable; parts of the ancient ways in the neighbourhood of Rome are still in use, having undergone no repair for hundreds of years, and I believe this is the case in one or two situations in England. On this very *Watling Street* I think I can show a spot where the ancient Roman pitching is still in wear.

This paper was much applauded by the company.

Dr. Prior made some remarks, and concluded by proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Wyatt for his papers.

The Rev. F. Hose seconded the proposition, which was carried by acclamation.

THE WORCESTER ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.

A PARTY of members and friends of this society enjoyed their annual excursion on the 5th inst. After taking train to Evesham they bowled away to Child's Wickham which possesses an interesting Norman church, but which was neglected until fears were entertained that its roof would come down and the walls give way; thanks, however, to the energy of the vicar, Rev. J. Hartley, the work of restoration was commenced, and is now nearly completed. The nave has been almost rebuilt and new roofed, new seated and floored, new entrance doors, and tower repaired. It is, however, to be regretted that there has not been a better conservation of the old Norman work of the nave. The chancel, too, which requires loving and careful handling, has been untouched. It is a church of good pretensions, and has a fine tower and spire. Some old stained glass was shown, as also a photograph of a mural painting discovered during the restoration. The latter illustrates the legend of the gigantic St. Christopher carrying the infant Jesus across the river. The village of Child's Wickham is peculiar and curious, with its houses, some of stone and others timber-framed, gabled, or turreted. Some houses are thatched and have actually wooden chimneys. The base and shaft of the old village cross was covered with "native infantry," staring wildly, wondering prodigiously, awe-stricken even to self-denial of the undevoured bread and butter which was in most of their tiny hands.

Of all the places visited Buckland was by far the most attractive. It is situate in a most romantic spot of undulating ground, with woods and charming glens; and the village, the ancient houses therein, the church and its contents, are gems. The rector, Rev. W. Philipps, courteously received the visitors, and showed them whatsoever was deserving of notice. The rectory is between three and four centuries old, in the hall of which is a lofty hammer-beam timber roof; and one of the windows contains old stained glass, with shields,

the words "In nomine Jesu" frequently repeated in scrolls, a number of birds, and the rebus of Grafton, the then rector, namely, a graft above a tun (Graft-tun), and one of the shields carries the arms of Gloucester Abbey. There are very thick oak lower shutters to these windows, and in this case the upper chamber abuts upon the hall instead of the minstrel's gallery. The rector also showed an embroidered altar-cloth, made out of an old cope or copes of the fifteenth century, also a mazer or drinking bowl, of maple, painted, having a silver rim on which is the following inscription:—"Magister Wingfield, rector de Buckland, huic poculo addidit aliquid ornatus. Willielmus Longmore me fecit, An. Dom., 1607." In the bottom of the bowl, interior, is set a figure in a kind of medallion, supposed to represent S. Margaret, standing on a dragon. In the village is another remarkable old house, of the fourteenth or fifteenth century, said to have been a manor-house of the abbots of Gloucester. But the church is the great feature of the place. It is chiefly of the thirteenth century, and has a chancel, nave, and aisles divided from it on each side by three pointed arches, a rich open roof, a square tower of oolitic stone, from the angle of which issue very demonstrative gargoyles, like evil spirits driven out of the sanctuary. Here are a sanctus-bell cot, a holy-water-stoup, fifteenth century seats, stairs to rood-loft, and encaustic tiles of special interest. The curious timbers of the roof exhibit a good example of the tie-beam, and bear in their richly-pierced spandrels the white rose of Edward IV. painted, and there are Elizabethan canopies over great family seats against the south wall of the nave aisle. This is a very rare feature indicating an occupation intermediate between a chantry and a high inclosed family pew. Of the latter there are some specimens here more than 6 feet high, one of them having a spring lock on the door. Against the wall of the north aisle of the nave is an old bench with wainscoted back, on which is this inscription:—"Thomas Izard and James Sawthorn of thair own charg have given this wainscoat and benchin to church in the yere of our Lord, 1615." The east window is of Elizabethan date, the three upper lights having stained glass representing baptism, matrimony, and extreme unction.

With great reluctance the visitors got away from this place (which ought to find a local historian), and drove to Broadway, dining at the Lygon Arms.

The village of Broadway is of itself a sufficient attraction for an antiquary, with its broad and handsome street, fine mansion-like stone buildings, mullioned windows, gables, picturesque chimneys, and other indications of former importance; and the Lygon Arms has the date 1620 carved on its stone doorway. Rev. C. S. Caffin chaperoned the party, who, after visiting the commodious new school, peeped into some labourers' cottages which once combined to form a manor-house of the abbots of Pershore. The roof of the hall, the windows and timber roof of the supposed chapel yet remain. Thence to the old church (S. Eadburgh's) at some distance from the village. This building was for many years in a ruinous condition and unused, having been gradually deserted by the parishioners after the making of the new road to London, which took away most of the population from the neighbourhood of the old church. It is now in good repair, but is only used as a mortuary chapel. It is a cruciform building, with a central tower; has Norman pillars in the nave, but the rest of the work is chiefly transitional from decorated to perpendicular; portions of the rood-screen and door remain, and there is a mural brass to Anthony Dalton, 1572, also the arms of Charles I. (1641) are preserved, which is somewhat unusual, owing to the general removal of the royal arms during the Commonwealth. The altar table is of wood, and the font is circular and entirely plain. An old wooden pulpit, semi-circular, and apparently of the date of the fifteenth century, has on its rim the inscription, "Where the Word of God is not preached the people perish," Prov. xxix. This may have been put on at a later period. The old gravestones

and inscriptions in the churchyard are highly suggestive, some of them reminding us of honest old Fuller's observation, "On some monuments the red veins of the marble seem to blush at the falsehoods written on it. He was a witty man that first taught a stone to speak, but he was a wicked man that taught it first to lie." One little stone has the unusually early date of 1516.

The party next went to Willersey, where the church is being restored, and is now resplendent with sculpture and decoration. It is a cruciform church, with tower at intersection, and groined roof beneath. The Rev. W. B. Gale, the rector, showed the communion plate, date 1682, and a fine linen cloth, made by hand in 1664, and now in excellent condition.

Saintbury was the last place visited, and here the Rev. W. Barrett kindly received the party. This church is also cruciform, and among its notabilia are a Norman doorway; a brass, dated 1574; the remains of steps leading to the rood-loft; a double piscina, with one basin gone, and stone shelf; graduated sedilia, without canopies; and a pretty peal of bells.

BORDER TUMULI.

THE following interesting communication appeared in the *Times* July 20th:—

Sir,—I believe the following very satisfactory result of some investigations I am making at Mount Teviot, and on the Marquis of Lothian's Border estates generally, will interest many of your readers who will shortly be travelling northwards to attend the meeting of the British Association at Edinburgh.

His lordship's head forester and a staff of assistants being authorized to carry out my suggestions, I made a careful survey of the estates around Mount Teviot, and finally selected those of Timpendean for my exploration on this occasion. The result has proved even more fruitful than my former examination of his lordship's more distant property.

On Timpendean "Muir," and in the surrounding woods, are several oval British camps, while in one of Roman construction has been built the border tower of Timpendean. On the "Muir" are several small tumuli, and it is also crossed by a Roman road—a tributary to "Watling-street." Several of these tumuli were opened without result, one only exhibiting remarkable features. Composed of large boulders and earth to a depth of 18 inches, on being cut through it showed a uniform layer of thick unctuous earth mixed with charred wood; beneath this a very regular stratum of clean white sandy soil, with a few quartz pebbles, and a chipped quartz like an arrow point; beneath this a stratum of about nine inches of foreign soil, and then the original level of the surrounding land.

Finding these results rather barren, I abandoned the tumuli and re-surveyed the "muir" for other indications. A few stones cropped out in apparent circle; others were found hidden by vegetation, which, when exposed, gave a slightly oval form. I ordered a cutting to be made across this, and on removing the turf the space was found to be regularly paved with moderately-sized boulder stones, in a single layer; beneath these the maiden soil was undisturbed. But on a close examination discolouration was found at uniform distances within the outer circle or oval of stones, and at spots where the pavement was deficient; at a few inches depth charred wood was found, which descended vertically, and terminated in each case in black decayed wood, almost reduced to the consistency of earth where the wood was charred; it had preserved its texture so completely that the grain of oak was distinctly visible.

In excavating at one of these spots, a small circular stone amulet, carefully bored through the centre, was obtained, and adjoining the one nearest to the Roman road a fine urn, inverted, full of calcined bones and vegetable charcoal, and

near it some white quartz pebbles. The urn is finely marked with British incisions, and about 10 in. in height.

The extant examples of this kind of British dwelling are very rare, the nearest, if not the only ones, being those by Loch Etive, in Argyleshire, where the remains of the wooden stakes which supported the conical thatched roofs mentioned by Strabo were also capable of identification.

It appears to me that the dwelling having been burnt, the charred stumps of the wooden supports remained in the ground, and the burying of the urn of the slain chief was probably beneath the spot where he fell or expired on the domestic hearth, on the side nearest the Roman road, from which quarter the attack no doubt would have come.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN S. PHENE, F.G.S., F.R.G.S.,

Member of the British Archaeological Association.

Jedburgh, July 15.

ORIGIN OF THE CABINET COUNCIL.—“The Privy Council being too numerous for matters requiring secrecy and despatch, a small committee of that body was appointed, consisting of those who had most of the king's confidence and favour; and this committee was his constant council of advice. Such a committee of the Privy Council had existed before the civil war. It was called the Committee for Foreign Affairs, and, in common conversation, the King's Cabinet or Cabal. This Committee of Foreign Affairs is the origin of the present Cabinet. It was in the nature of things that it should become more important than the Privy Council itself. Its encroachments on the functions of the Privy Council gave rise to frequent complaints during the reign of Charles II. Twice during the reign, after the fall of Clarendon in 1667, and after the fall of Danby in 1679, Charles was so far moved by the popular outcry against the Prime Minister and Cabinet, as to promise publicly that he would be guided entirely by the advice of his Privy Council, and have no secrets from that body. But on both occasions the promise was almost immediately broken. In truth, a chief minister and a small council of advice were necessities for the sovereign. Thus it happened that, in the interval between the Restoration and the Revolution of 1788, the Cabinet, notwithstanding all the opposition and obloquy which it created, came to assume a regular form and recognised position of the State, and both Cabinet and Prime Minister have long been practically important parts of our constitution.”—*A Life of Anthony Ashley Cooper, First Earl of Shaftesbury*. 1621-1683.

SOCIETIES' MEETINGS.

[Secretaries of Archaeological and Antiquarian Societies throughout the Kingdom will confer a favour by forwarding to the Editor of this Journal all Notices and Reports of Meetings, and also their Periodical Publications.]

ROYAL ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.

A MEETING was held on Friday, July the 7th, when the Very Rev. Canon Rock was in the chair.

The chairman exhibited, from Mr. Riggs, of Washington, U.S., a figure, wrought in gold, representing a human being, to the hips, wearing a helmet formed of an eagle's head, with open beak and ruffled crest. The lower part of the figure takes the form of a bell, and it has evidently been used as one. It is doubtless a Mexican relic, and a dragon was at one time pendent to it. It weighs eight ounces, and stands $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches high.

Mr. Tebbs brought a Sarum Missal of about A.D. 1400.

Mr. J. G. Nichols showed a volume of sketches made by a Swiss artist from the columns of the chapel at Bethlehem, said to be records of the knightly pilgrims who visited the shrine.

Mr. C. Roach Smith sent an account of the discovery of some mediæval remains in the church at Carisbrook.

Mr. Fortnum read some notes upon early Christian rings of gold, silver, and bronze, which he exhibited.

Mr. J. H. Parker gave a discourse on “Recent Archaeological Discoveries in Rome.” After touching upon the principal results of the excavations undertaken by the Archaeological Society of Rome, he criticized some of the proceedings of Signor Rosa, to whom the direction of the excavations was now committed, and who (in Mr. Parker's opinion) was too fond of restorations.

Prof. Lewis read some “Remarks on Cabinets of Ebony and Ivory,” exhibited by Mr. Wickham Flower.

Mr. Walford exhibited a copper brazier with ornamented lid; Mr. Nash sent a curious bunch of touch-needles for goldsmiths' work, of delicate construction—probably Italian work; Miss Ffarington sent a photograph of a drawing of Lord Lovat, by Hogarth, brought to notice at the Institute Meeting at Lancaster, in 1868; Mr. Spurrell sent a Norwegian fork, with sculptured ivory handle; and Sir J. C. Jervoise sent two coins found at Cairhax, Brittany.

On rising, the Chairman adverted to the excellent prospects of the annual meeting at Cardiff, which would commence on the 25th inst., and referred to the Congress of Prehistoric Archaeology which would open at Bologna on the 1st of October next.

CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORELAND ANTIQUARIAN AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

THIS Society held its first meeting for the present year at Keswick, on the 11th instant. The proceedings of the day commenced with a business meeting held in the Keswick Hotel, the Rev. J. Simpson presiding. The Earl of Lonsdale was re-elected president of the Society. Mr. C. J. Ferguson presented a report of the results of the effort made by the committee appointed by the society last year to take steps to preserve the remains of a Roman mile castle, then just found in lowering Pike-hill, on the road from Lanercost to Birdswald.

Mr. J. Clifton Ward next proceeded to read a paper upon “The Druidical Circle near Keswick,” premising that his paper was rather an outline of the chief points of archaeological interest in the immediate neighbourhood of Keswick.

Some conversation ensued upon some of the points raised. An opinion was expressed that with the so-called “Druidical circles” the Druids had nothing to do, they being earlier than the Druids; but as we know little about the Druids themselves, and still less when they originated, or who preceded them, we cannot see how it is at all made clear that the Druids had nothing to do with the stone circles, especially as the Druidical rites had a good deal to do with circles generally. It was pointed out that one great object to look for on these stones was a circular mark with a peculiar line striking from it, at an angle of about 45 degrees. Such a mark, after several visits, had been discovered at the “Long Meg” circle. At Maughanby some years ago a circle had been found. Within it was a smaller circle or chamber, and within the chamber the remains of bones. On one of the stones the circular mark was found. Several members mentioned places where circles are to be found—Eskdale Fell, Birkby Moor, Hartsopp Hall, Millom, and Carrock.

Passing by Greta Hall, the residence of Southey, and almost under the very shadow of Skiddaw, the party arrived at Crosthwaite Church—St. Mungo's or St. Kentigern's—and entering the porch, admired for a while Lough's marble monument of Southey, before scattering themselves over the church to investigate its architectural peculiarities.

Mr. Grosthwaite acted as guide, and referred to the alterations and repairs made in 1843, mentioning particularly that the east window, which had before that not been in the centre, had been taken out and rebuilt. This, with other circumstances, seemed to show that at some time the whole of the church, with the exception of the north aisle and tower, had been taken down and the church enlarged on

the south side. The south aisle is much wider than the north aisle; and the window in the tower, like the former east window, is not in the centre. Attention was also drawn to the emblems on the curious old baptismal font, which bears the royal arms of Edward III. Among these are the tree of life, emblems of the crucifixion, with the scourge and lantern in the lower corner, the words proceeding from the mouth of God, symbols of the Trinity, vine leaves, a triangular shield with Aaron's rod, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. On the base are the fetter-lock and crescent, the badges of the Percys.

A visit to the Druid's Circle closed the day.

The next meeting of the Society will be at Kirkby Stephen in August, when a two days' meeting will be held, in conjunction with the Durham and Northumberland Society.

ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF DURHAM AND NORTHUMBERLAND.

THE second meeting of this Society took place at Belsay and Stamfordham. In the morning a number of the members left Newcastle by carriages, and proceeded to Ponteland, where they inspected the church and the remains of the castle, which now form part of the Blackbird Inn.

From the last-named place, where some ancient heraldic stained glass was examined with much interest, the members went forward to Belsay Castle, the seat of Sir Arthur Monck, Bart.

Some of the members walked on from Belsay to Bitchfield, where there exists a curious old tower and ancient house, both of which were inspected, as was also Stamfordham Church.

The members dined together at the Bay House Inn, Stamfordham.

NORFOLK AND NORWICH ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

ONE of the most numerously attended meetings of this society was held early in July, the source of attraction being in the fact that the president, the Very Rev. the Dean of Norwich, was to read a paper "On the Restoration of the Bosses in the Roof of the Nave," and also to give the members and their friends an opportunity of personally inspecting, as well as hearing a description of the work of restoration now being carried on in Jesus Chapel and other parts of the cathedral. Both the paper and the deans commentary upon the bosses, read from a work of his in the press, were listened to with much interest, and parts were much applauded.

The ladies and gentlemen were about to accompany the dean to inspect the work of restoration, completed and in progress, when the Rev. Precentor Symonds brought under the notice of the meeting the contemplated demolition of East Rudham Church. He read a letter from Mr. Hakewill, architect to the Church Building Association, in which that gentleman protested in the strongest terms against such a proceeding, maintaining that all the church requires is restoring and not rebuilding.

A resolution was unanimously adopted to the effect that the letter of Mr. Hakewill should be laid before the Chancellor, with a respectful request to him to postpone his decree until the bishop returns, when the matter would be brought before his lordship.

Before the party visited Jesus Chapel, which is now in the course of restoration, at the expense of the dean, the dean begged visitors to remember that the work was not yet finished, and that a great alteration would be made in the appearance, when the east window was completed. No doubt the colour would appear offensive to many eyes, but his object was not to produce that which was pleasing, but simply to restore.

The dean then read a paper prepared by Mr. Spaul, the restorer.

The party next proceeded to the presbytery, to see the arches which have already been opened out, and to inspect the work of restoration.

The dean entertained the greater portion of the members at luncheon.

SUFFOLK ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

THE excursion of this Society has just taken place, and a fair number of members and friends found themselves at Needham Market railway station, under the presidency of Lord John Hervey. Thence they proceeded to Barking Church.

From Barking the party returned to Needham Chapel, where the Rev. W. Sewell, of Yaxley, read an interesting paper on its history and antiquities.

Creting St. Mary was the next place on the programme, after which came Stonham Aspal, Mickfield, and Stonham Parva. But the most important church visited during the day was Earl Stonham.

In the new schoolroom at Earl Stonham there had been collected a good series of antiquarian remains, mostly obtained in excavating a field of about half an acre in the glebe. Mr. Castley thought that Stonham was the *Sitomagus* of the ancient Romans, and that the 9th *Iter* of Antoninus passed through the village. The quantity of Roman remains which had been found in various parts of the neighbourhood had been immense.

Mr. Dewing expressed his opinion that Dunwich was the *Sitomagus*, and said that the mileage agreed with this idea.

The party then left for Creting St. Peter. A hasty visit to the church at Stowmarket brought an interesting day to its close.

THE ROYAL HISTORICAL AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND.

THE July meeting of this association has just been held. Eight new members were elected, and various objects of interest were exhibited or described, and other business transacted.

The Rev. J. Graves, the secretary, read a portion of a letter which he had received from Lord Courtown, in which his lordship mentioned that he had heard from the Hon. Mr. Dillon (son of Lord Clonbrock) that a large portion of the Round Tower of Kilmacduagh had fallen, and that the rest of the structure was in a perilous condition.

Lord Courtown asked, "Could further damage be stayed by an appeal to the public?"

The meeting expressed much concern at the intelligence, and requested Mr. Graves to communicate with the Hon. Mr. Dillon, in order to ascertain the exact extent of the damage, and what course might be taken to stay any further injury.

Mr. Prim read a paper on the Kilkenny "Mysteries," or "Miracle Plays," giving more extracts from the Red Book of the Corporation, stating that at Midsummer, 1586, one Richard Cogan played Christ. The sum he received for it is omitted; but we learn that while Harry Moore, for acting the Devil, got 8d., the Kilkenny baker, for impersonating the Archangel Michael, received only 6d. Lace and gloves for setting forth the Maries, with items referring to the costumes of Christ and less important personages,—indeed, the properties generally,—lead to the impression that the Kilkenny Passion and Resurrection Plays were got up with artistic eye to effect.

A page of the MS. of an Anglo-Saxon translation of the 'Rule of St. Benedict,' lately found in Wells Cathedral, has been photographed, and shows the manuscript to be of the eleventh century, and later than the Cotton MS. in the British Museum.

NOTE.

WE shall be obliged for any authentic information as to authorship of the "Letter of a Liveryman," supposed, by some, to have been written by Henry Fielding. We have seen the pamphlet containing the letter, and all the other papers relating to the case of Elizabeth Canning, but have failed to trace any clue to the authorship of the letter. All the editions of Fielding's works, hitherto published, are without this pamphlet, and in none of them has allusion been made to it. "The True Story of Elizabeth Canning" was published in 1753 by Fielding himself as his own, and it is strange that neither Murphy nor Roscoe have assigned a reason for excluding it from his works.

We are glad to learn that Messrs. Bickers & Son intend to supply the deficiency in the edition of Fielding they have in the press. We would suggest that the other two or three papers relating to the case—two of them violent attacks on Fielding—and especially the "Letter of a Liveryman" be also given.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The Editor will be glad to receive Correspondence on Archaeological matters, and information of discoveries of antiquities, accompanied with drawings of objects, when of sufficient interest, for illustration.]

THE LEADING FACTS OF CHAUCER'S LIFE
CHRONOLOGICALLY ARRANGED.

To the Editor of "THE ANTIQUARY."

(Concluded from our last.)

1383-7 Rich. II., great disturbances in the city; in Feb., 1384, John Comberton, of Northampton, the Mayor, who favoured Wycliffe, was arrested and banished to Corfe Castle, Datelthere, or to Tintagel Castle, Cornwall, on a charge of sedition. November, Chaucer obtains leave of absence for one month.

1385—February, is permitted to appoint a deputy to perform his official duties.

1386—Elected knight of the shire for the county of Kent, in Parliament, holden October 1 to November 1.

Same time is examined as witness in the heraldic cause of Scrope or Grosvenor, he is therein styled Jeffrey Chaucere, Esquier, "[del agede xl.] ans* et plus, armez par xxvii. ans."

. Chaucer enjoyed precedence as squire at arms, and he gave evidence as himself, one entitled to bear coat armour, his bearings being the same as the Scrope coat, but differing in tinctures, it is possible that his own right was derived from some member of that family.

Before December 4, in this year, he was deprived of all his official appointments; this dismissal was the sequel of a regular official inquiry into the management of the department of subsidies and customs, his successors named were Adam Yerdeley and Henry Gisors.

1387—His wife died in the course of this year.

1388—February 1, 11 Rich. II., he obtains the king's licence to surrender his two money grants in favour of John Scalby.

1389—July 12, 13 Rich. II., he is appointed clerk of the works at Westminster, Tower of London, Windsor, and divers other castles and manors, at 2s. a day, with power to appoint a deputy.

* Mr. Thoms, of *Notes and Queries*, proposes to read lx. here, i.e., sixty in place of forty. This is hardly justifiable, because it is quite correct to say that Chaucer was forty and upwards; but it is wrong to say that he was over sixty in 1386, which would throw back his birth to before 1326.

[Note that the famous William of Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester, had only 1s. a day in 1366, as clerk of the works, when he built Windsor Castle.]

October 7, 13 Rich. II., 66l. 13s. 4d. was paid to him, by the hands of John Herwesthorpe, clerk of the works, near the Tower.

1391—September 16, he is dismissed from this employment, his successor being John Gedney.

1391-16 Rich. II., Donnington Castle, Berks, a large demesne and valuable estate, which afterwards belonged to Thomas Chaucer, his supposed son, or to Sir John Philip, who died 1415, the son-in-law of Thomas Chaucer, it has been ascertained was then in possession of Richard Abberbury who erected it.

1392-3 "Troilus and Creseide" was dedicated to his friend John Gower.

[This is also the ascertained date of Gower's "Confessio Amantes," in which he calls Chaucer "old," and speaks of him as in his "latter age." By this fact we also learn that Chaucer was now engaged in modelling his Canterbury Tales. See an allusion in the Prologue to "Man of Lawes Tale."]

1394—February 17, Rich. II., he obtained grant of a new annuity of 20l.

1396—January 3, John of Gaunt, the king's uncle, married Katharine Swynford, mother of the Beauforts, from whom Henry VII. was descended, former governess to his elder children, and the supposed sister of Philippa Chaucer.

1398—May 21, Rich. II., grant of the king's protection from arrest for debt for two years.

1398—July 24, applied at the Exchequer for an advance of 6s. 8d. on account of his allowances; this sum appears to have kept him till the following week, when he repeated his application in the same form,

1398-22 Ric. II., grant of a pipe or two of wine annually, value 4l. of cotemporary money.

1399—Death of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster and Aquitaine, and Chaucer's especial patron.

October 3, 1 Henry IV., John of Gaunt's son by his first wife; Chaucer obtains a fresh grant of 40 marks, 26l. 13s. 4d., annually, his former grants of 20l. and annual pipe or two of wine are also continued; December 24, Christmas Eve, he obtains lease of a house for fifty-three years, at the rent of 2l. 13s. 4d. per annum, situated in St. Mary's Chapel garden, near Westminster Abbey, it was demised from Robert Hermondeswith, a monk, with consent of the abbot and convent, stringent covenant of distraint, and to revert to the ecclesiastics in case of lessee's death.

1400—March 1, his pension was received for him by Henry Somere, a clerk of the Exchequer.

October 25, Chaucer's death, according to the inscription in Westminster Abbey.

1476—"Canterbury Tales" first printed by William Caxton.

Besides the entry of Geoffrey Chaucer's name, in respect of his Aldgate (*sic*) lease, four other Chaucers are also named in the City records, contemporaneously with the poet.

1329-1. Richard le Chaucer, Vintner, the supposed father of the poet, according to Speght and Stow; he was plaintiff in an action for assault in 1329; his will was enrolled 1349, 23 Ed. III., in which he left property to his parish church, St. Mary, Alderman in Cordwainer Ward, but no mention of Geoffrey.

1342-2. John Chaucer, as a leading vintner, was witness to an ordinance against taverners mixing or adulterating wines, 1 August, 1342, 16 Ed. III.

1369—3. Nicholas Chaucer, a pepperer; will enrolled 43 Ed III., 1369.

1371—4. Henry Chaucer, also a vintner, he was bail as a household for one Alan Grygge, chaundeler, in 1371, 45 Ed. III.

July 7, 1871.

A. H.

INTERMENTS.

To the Editor of "THE ANTIQUARY."

SIR,—In reply to "W. W." any burial ground may be called a cemetery.

As to interments in the 14th and 15th centuries, it seems quite certain that people of position were then, for the most part, buried *within* the walls of a church, and that family vaults have existed from a very early period, as shown by chantries or oratories, being small chapels within the cathedral, monastery, priory, or parish church. Then there were the cloisters.

As to open air interments we have the remains of stone crosses of all ages, from the early Runic, to so-called Irish, Saxon, and Norman crosses; but let it be remembered that England was not, of old, one tythe so populous as now; that human remains will not long resist the influence of damp; that leaden or stone coffins have always been expensive luxuries, and that the *wooden* crosses of the poor soon decay.

In times of pestilence, no doubt, pits were dug for the corpses, and quick-lime thrown in; besides, I do not believe in personal veneration for unrecognised, unidentified remains, and it is in my own knowledge that the contents of disused burial-grounds, have been promiscuously carted away centuries ago.

A. H.

AN HISTORICAL OAK STICK.

To the Editor of "THE ANTIQUARY."

Sir,—I have lately received a present of a handsome oak stick from a friend in America, the account of which you may perhaps think worthy of insertion. It is made out of the wreck of H.M.S. *Augusta*, of 64 guns, which ship was partially burned, and then sunk, in the Delaware, in 1777, during the American war. I enclose an account of the incident from Campbell's "Lives of the Admirals," and I dare say that there are more details to be found in Marshall's "Life of Washington," and in Jared Sparke's Life of him, which is a more modern work.

Your obedient servant,

11th July, 1871.

AN OLD MID.

Extract from Campbell's "Lives of the Admirals," Vol. V. p. 387.

It was not attempted to remove the upper barrier, which was much the stronger, until the arrival of Lord Howe, who concerted measures for this purpose with the General. The latter ordered batteries to be erected on the Pennsylvania shore, to assist in dislodging the enemy from Mud Island. He also detached, 22nd of October, a strong body of Hessians to attack the redoubt at Red Bank; while Lord Howe ordered the men-of-war and frigates to approach Mud Island, which was the main object of the assault. The operations by land and sea were equally unsuccessful. The Hessians were repulsed with great slaughter by the garrison at Red Bank, as well as by the floating batteries of the enemy. The ships could not bring their fire to bear with any considerable effect upon the island. The extraordinary obstructions with which the Americans had interrupted the free course of the river, had even affected its bed, and wrought some alteration on its known and natural channel. By this means the *Augusta*, man-of-war of 64 guns, and *Merlin* sloop were grounded so fast at some distance from the *chevaux de frise*, that there was no possibility of getting them off. In this situation, though the skill of the officers, seconded by the activity of the crews, prevented the effect of four fire-ships sent to destroy the *Augusta*, she unfortunately took fire in the engagement, which obliged the others to retire at a distance from the expected explosion.

The *Merlin* also was destroyed, but few lives were lost.

UNPUBLISHED LINES TO CAMDEN.

To the Editor of "THE ANTIQUARY."

SIR,—The following is inscribed inside on one of the blank leaves of a volume of the first edition of Camden, now in the library of the Dean and Chapter of Wells Cathedral, which is also inscribed:—

One fayre par-royall hath our Iland bred,
Where of one is alive and two are dead,
Sydney y^e prince of prose and sweet conceipt,
Spenser of numbers and heroick ryme,
Iniurious fate did both their lives defeat,
For warre and want slew both before their time.
Now tho' they dead lodge in a princely roome,
One wants a verse, the other wants a Toome,
Camden y^e livest alone of all y^e three,
For Roman stile and Englishe Historye.
England made them, y^e makst England knowne,
So well art thou y^e prince of all y^e payre,
Sithence y^e hast an England of thine owne,
Less wealthy, but as fruitfull and more fayre,
Nor is thine England moated wth the mayne,
But doth our seas and firmed lands containe,
And scornes the warres wherwth our yle is pest,
Spreading itself through y^e wide world's extent,
Lesse needs it feare y^e swelling of a brooke,
Whose lowly channell feeds on private lake,
That can the prouder ocean overlooke,
And all y^e streames y^e thence their sources take,
Long may booth Englande live and living raigno
In spight of envy thine and ours of Spaine,
While ours in thine may thou in ours abide,
Thine ages honour and thy countreyes pride
And if perchance th' ingratfull age deeyes
To grace y^e death wth toombe and scrolled verse,
Each village church and house their want supplies,
Ech stone thy grave eih letter is thy verse,
And if all these should be wth time out woore,
Each streame should grave thy name uppo his shore.

Jos. Z. LATT JURMAN.

Liber Thomas James, ex dono auctoris,
Aug. 3, A.D. 1600.

As it seems never to have been published perhaps it might find a place in your pages.

I have carefully copied the spelling as it is in the original.

Your obedient servant,
JAS. T. IRVINE.

NORFOLK AND NORWICH M.D.'s.

To the Editor of "THE ANTIQUARY."

Sir,—I am at present engaged in collecting portraits of those medical men who were formerly connected with the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, and I should be very pleased if any of your readers would kindly give me information respecting the descendants of the following surgeons:—

Stephen Aldhouse, who died 1804.	
Joseph Rogers	1774.
William Atthill	1790.
Charles Maltby	1790.
William Palgrave	1777.
William Bond	1826.

I am glad to say several portraits have been presented to the Hospital; many of these are framed and placed in the Board-room, and the rest will, I hope, shortly follow. When the series (which I venture to think will be a very interesting one) is as complete as can be made, it will afford me much pleasure to give you a detailed account of the collection.

I am, sir, yours &c.,

CHARLES WILLIAMS.

9, Prince of Wales'-road, Norwich,
July 19, 1871.

A CENTENARIAN.—A remarkable old woman, named Mrs. White, is now living in the Marishes, North Riding, and is now 103 years old. She recently attended Yedingham club feast, walking a mile and a half each way. She evidently thinks club feasts have degenerated, for she is reported to have said she "was never at sike a club feast" in her life. There was "nowt ta eat, nowt ta drink, and nowt ta see."

SOUTH OF ENGLAND LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY'S EXCURSION.

A PARTY of members of this society, led by the veteran antiquary, the Rev. E. Kell, M.A., left Southampton on Tuesday morning, the 18th instant, for the Isle of Wight. Arrived at Newport, the party were met by Dr. E. P. Wilkins and the Rev. E. B. James, vicar of Carisbrooke, and viewed the treasures of the Museum which had been kindly housed by Alderman W. B. Mew. The company then viewed in succession the beautiful interior of St. Thomas's Church and that of Carisbrooke Church, and the far-famed remains of the Roman Villa near Carisbrooke vicarage, where, after viewing some treasures of art, they repaired to Carisbrooke Castle. There in the ballroom an excellent luncheon was spread for them. The Rev. E. Kell presided, supported by the Rev. E. B. James, the Mayor of Newport (Mr. H. Mew), the Mayor of Southampton (Mr. T. P. Payne), Dr. Bond (Principal of the Hartley Institute), Dr. Wilkins, and others. Among the ladies present was Mrs. Payne (Mayoress of Southampton).

Luncheon over, the chairman gave the "Health of the Queen," followed by "Prosperity to the South of England Literary and Philosophical Society," and in the course of his remarks expressed pleasure at meeting them on this fair field of antiquities. The discovery of the Roman Villa they had just visited, strengthened his theory that this castle was on the site of one built by the Romans, about 200 years before Christ, for the protection of their trade in tin, which was passed over in carts from the mainland west of the Island and along Rue Street. It diverged north of the castle, and converged into the same route to the south of the castle, and Pucaster was the place of embarkation. All this, together with the discovery of a Roman Villa at Gurnard, and another at Lepe, went to establish his theory, which had been laughed at by those who held that the Solent at the west point of the Island had been shallow within historic times. In some concluding remarks on this society he adverted with satisfaction to the fact that it was the parent of three societies, those of Romsey, Wilton, and Newbury. Their thanks, as visitors, were due to the Rev. Vicar of Carisbrooke, for his great kindness on this occasion.

Dr. Wilkins next delivered an interesting address on the geology of the Isle of Wight.

At the conclusion, thanks were voted to the learned doctor, and the company dispersed for a ramble about the castle before leaving for Newport.

THE RUINS OF ROTTEN ROW, DERBY.

THE ruins of Rotten Row, which have been so distinguished a feature in Derby, have nearly disappeared. It is probable that from time immemorial the west side of the Market-place was occupied by a low range of buildings where meat was regularly sold, and called in consequence the "Butchery," or "Butcher Row." The property belonged principally to Mr. Crompton, who, some time at the end of the 17th or beginning of the last century, caused an edition to be made to it, which gave the place its well-known name, "The Piazzas." Mr. Wolley's MS. (written in 1712, and now preserved in the College of Arms), describing the Guildhall, says:—"Over against it stands a good handsome hall, erected by Mr. Crompton, part on the butchery on the west side of the place, and part on pillars, where the market-people that sell butter, eggs, and poultry, stand, and behind it is part of the Rotten Row. It is said he built this hall with a design to make an exchange with the Corporation for theirs; at present it is only used by some button-makers that work in it." At the time when this account was written, the Guildhall was a long low building of lath and plaster, covered with tiles, situated far in advance of its present position; so far, indeed, that there was scant room for traffic between it and the corner of Mr. Crompton's

"Piazzas." The "common-room" of the council was reached by a flight of steps from the outside, facing the "Cross," which, when Mr. Wolley wrote, stood in the centre of the market and was covered with a kind of cupola supported by four pillars. Under it was a conduit of water brought out of the Newlands. The site of this structure is now occupied by an iron lamp and pump, the water of which is supplied from "Becket's Well." Within Hutton's recollection "the hall, the stairs, the conduit, and the cross, then in being, nearly choked up the little market-place." In 1730 the half-timbered Guildhall was taken down, and for some time afterwards the sittings of the Corporation took place in the "Piazzas." When the hosiery business was brisk in Derby, and stockings of the famed "Derby rib" were sought for far and wide, the "Piazzas" echoed with the music of the frame, invented by Messrs. Jedediah Strutt and William Woollatt about 1756.

THE TEMPLE OF DIANA AT EPHEBUS.

ON the occasion of the last meeting of the Society for the Encouragement of the Fine Arts, held at their rooms in Conduit Street, the President, Viscount Stratford de Redcliffe in the chair, Mr. J. T. Wood, Architect, delivered a lecture descriptive of the explorations he has made at Ephesus in quest of the "Temple of Diana."

The first clue which led to the discovery of this great Temple was an inscription unearthed by Mr. Wood at the remains of the great theatre particularising the circuit of the city to be made by the priests of the Temple in their sacred processions, and specifying the "Magnesian Gate" where the young men of Ephesus met the priests and assisted in the ceremony. Mr. Wood was enabled, by tracing the route of the city wall, to find this gate, which, from its peculiar position, led him to the correct conclusion of there being two roads leading from it, one in a southerly direction (towards Magnesia)—the other in the opposite direction (towards Ayasalok). Choosing the most worn of the two (the north road), he opened it up, discovering thereby numerous tombs and sarcophagi, and afterwards found a road branching towards the open country, some distance along which excavations were made and a thick wall of large stones touched upon, two inscriptions being found proving it to be the "Peribolus Wall" built by Augustus, it being evident, therefore, that the precincts of the Temple were reached. By sinking trial holes a white marble pavement was found, of Greek workmanship, 9 inches thick, with its joints rubbed and carefully fitted and laid on a course of stonework, which he afterwards ascertained was the floor of a crypt some 8 feet below the level of the Temple pavement, which last had evidently been supported by dwarf columns, of which many remains were found. Remains of large columns with their capitals and bases were also discovered, upon which traces of colour were discernible.

Mr. Newton, Mr. Hyde Clarke, Professor Donaldson, and Mr. Penrose joined in the discussion that followed, and Professor Donaldson touched upon the question, which will now be set at rest, as to whether the Temple was Octostyle or Decastyle.

The usual vote of thanks was passed to the right hon. chairman and to the lecturer.

FOUR GENERATIONS.—A widow, named Susan Clay, aged 95, is now living at Ottery St. Mary, Devon. She has eight children living, the eldest being 68 and the youngest 48. Her grandchildren number 67, and her great grandchildren over 260. The eldest of the fourth generation is 26 years old. Mrs. Clay is in the enjoyment of excellent health, and speaks with pride of the extent to which her descendants are dispersed over the earth.

THE HEAD OF MARINO FALIERO.

ON this ghastly relic a correspondent thus writes to the Editor of the *Times*:—

"I venture to send you a few lines on the subject of an historical relic of great interest, shown me the other day at Venice. Its existence seems almost unknown, and I write this in the hope that some historical scholar or physiologist may be persuaded to examine it, as it is either an extraordinary memorial or a marvellous hoax.

"This singular and ghastly fragment of the past is asserted to be the head of Marino Faliero, the beheaded Doge of 500 years ago, best known in England as the hero of Byron's tragedy. It will be found at the Correr Museum, which is soon to be removed to the well-known Fondaco del Turchi. The *custode* stated that the head was taken direct from the Doge's grave. I can only say, from close inspection, that it appears to be the head of an old man of high breeding and organisation, from the delicacy of the features, which are very well preserved; also that it was cut off during life, as the flesh has swelled at the cut, from the contraction of the skin. Many of your readers will remember the story of Gentile Bellini, and the Sultan's dissatisfaction with his picture of the decollated St. John, because the freshly-severed head did not possess this feature of reality. The present head seems to have been severed with one blow, but to have hung by the skin of the throat, which has been cut away in a long flap, like that of a pocket-book. The state of the veins leads me to suppose that some process of injection has been used to preserve it. It appears to be a remarkably narrow, high, and long head, strongly developed behind. Finally, the expression of the features is absolutely lifelike as well as deathlike, and is one of such dreadful and inexpressible agony and sudden shock that I think the authenticity of the relic is confirmed by it.

"It is stated in the Chronicle translated by Lord Byron (Appendix to 'Murray's Collective Edition,' 1837, p. 788) that the Doge's corpse was 'removed in a barge with eight torches to his tomb in the Church of SS. Giovanni Paolo, where it was buried.' That church is undergoing very extensive repairs in consequence of the well-remembered fire of last year, in which Titian's 'Peter Martyr' was destroyed. I presume that the Doge's tomb has been lately opened, but had no time to make proper inquiries.

"A modern portrait or attempted reconstruction of Faliero's likeness exists, I believe, in the Doge's Palace. His proper place in the frieze of the Sala del Gran Consiglio is occupied, as all remember, by the well known black curtain and inscription—'*Hic est locus Marini Faliero, decapitati pro criminibus.*'

"I am, Sir, yours very faithfully,

"R. St. J. T."

"*Keilby, Oxford, July 17.*"

PURCHASES FOR THE BRITISH MUSEUM.—The British Museum has just effected an important purchase of twelve vases found recently at Capua. These are all of them finely preserved examples of a rare and beautiful class, generally assigned to an epoch little lower than that of Alexander, and distinguished by a large size and supreme and subtly varied elegance of form. They are principally amphoræ and crateres, without figure designs, but with their bodies painted black, and fluted in the manner which indicates an intention of imitating the forms of metal vases. The neck is generally adorned with a wreath of leaf-sprays picked out in gold.

THE Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society has recently revived its old custom of instituting geological excursions to some of the many objects of interest in the county. One of these took place last month, under the guidance of the veteran geologist, Mr. J. Plant, and was an eminently successful one.

PROVINCIAL.

DUNSTABLE PRIORY CHURCH.

At the monthly meeting of the Bedfordshire Architectural and Archaeological Society, held on July 18, the Rev. J. Y. Seagrave in the chair, a committee was appointed for the purpose of preparing an address and making an appeal on behalf of the restoration of this noble relic of mediæval munificence, beyond question the most remarkable ecclesiastical building in the county.

The Rev. F. Hose, the Rector of Dunstable, explained the plans of the architect, Mr. G. Somers Clarke; the work already carried out and the sums expended; also the works yet to be undertaken and the estimate for the completion of them.

LINCOLN.

RESTORATION OF ST. MARY-LE-WIGFORD CHURCH.—

The restoration of this edifice progresses under the supervision of the architects. The cleansing and reparation were much needed, the earth in the interior being full of human bones to within a few inches of the boarded floors. About 15 in. deep of this earth having been removed, some ancient sepulchral slabs were exposed to view, at the original floor level: one of Purbeck marble, contained three inscribed brasses. A number of intricately-moulded arch-stones, found in the walls, are being utilised in the arches over two of the windows on the north side. In the north wall the base of one of the window-shafts was found to be an abacus belonging to a cap, turned upside down and used as a base; it is now put to its proper use in the restoration of the north doorway. Instructions were given to work a proper base, but before they could be carried out the missing base was found among the old walling material, and was repaired and fixed under the window shaft. The lower part or the chancel aisle wall and the deep courses of facing stone adjoining are built of old stone coffins. The nave and chancel walls present none of these features, and the materials used in their construction do not appear to have been disturbed.

LYMINGTON.

BOLDRE CHURCH.—The roof of this ancient church some time ago was discovered to be in a bad state—so much so that a part of it over the north aisle was actually slipping off. It was found necessary to strip the whole side, and to put in fresh rafters, &c. Subscriptions are also being raised for the purpose of giving the south wall of the western portion of the parish church a new set of windows more in keeping than the present with its architectural character.

OXFORD.

THE GATEWAY IN GODDARD'S LANE.—Workmen have been lately engaged in pulling down the house situate in Goddard's Lane, immediately below the Blue Boar Inn. In doing so, they have thrown open to public view the archway, which has so long been a subject of interest to antiquarians, but which having been walled in a few years since, has been unknown to a large number of townsmen until thus brought to light. It was referred to in a lecture on "Chipping-Norton in the Olden Time," delivered at the Literary Institute in March last, by the Rev. C. Kirtland, of London. As the archway is obliged to be removed, it has been felt by many that it would be a disgrace that such a monument of antiquity should be destroyed. It has, therefore, been carefully taken down, and it is proposed that it shall be re-erected at one of the entrances to the church-yard, should no more suitable place be found. Mr. Coleman, the proprietor, has kindly presented the archway for this purpose. In removing the chimney stack, in the

same building a very ancient carved stone chimney-piece was found, but at present it has not been examined by any one of sufficient archaeological research to give its approximate age. This, too, will be carefully removed and cleared from the plaster with which it is now filled up.

CURIOUS OLD STORY.—The following, extracted from an old book, may interest our readers in calling their attention to the circumstances connected with a crime committed upwards of two centuries ago—"TewDunse (Oxf.), on the north side of Steeple Aston, has certain lands, which, having belonged to St. Frideswide's Mon. in Oxford, were given by Hen. VIII. to his Coll. of Christchurch. Sir James Chamberlain, Bt., has a seat here. It is very memorable what happened here in 1650 to Sir Thomas Read's servant, Anne Green, who came to life, after being hanged at the gallows till she was thought dead even by those who, as she desired, used means to despatch her. For being carried to a house to be dissected, where Sir Wm. Petty, anatomy professor, Dr. Wallis, Dr. Bathurst, &c., were preparing her body for it, they perceived a rattling in her throat, and used such means to recover her that within fourteen hours she spoke; and it was remarked that she came to herself just as if she had awaked out of sleep, beginning to speak where she left off at the place of execution. The officers, hearing of it, would fain have had her back to have completed it, but the doctors and the Mayor of Oxford kept them from it till they got her a pardon, and she went to her friends at Steeple Barton, where she married, had three children, lived in good repute, and died in 1659."

SUDBURY, SUFFOLK.

DISCOVERY OF HUMAN SKELETONS.—As some workmen were recently engaged in excavating for the new Water Works in School Street, about three feet below the surface they came upon a quantity of human bones in a good state of preservation, the teeth being white and perfect—a very remarkable fact, as it is believed the bodies have been buried a thousand years, the spot where the remains were found forming part of the burial ground attached to the old Church of St. Sepulchre. This is also confirmed by the fact that during extensive excavations which have been made at different periods, large quantities of human remains have been found lying at regular intervals, as in modern burial grounds. The preservation of these bones for such an extended period is proved beyond doubt, as the name of the Church of St. Sepulchre is not mentioned in Domesday Book, and must, therefore, have stood at a period anterior to that ancient record.

TEIGNMOUTH.

THE TEIGN FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB recently went to Berry Pomeroy, for its monthly meeting. Rain prevented the proposed excursions, and the picnic was held under the archway of the castle, where a very interesting Paper on its history, and the antiquities of Totnes and the neighbourhood, was read by Mr. J. Paige Browne, M.A. About forty of the members and their friends were present. The next meeting will be held at Lustleigh, with an excursion to Becky Fall.

WALES.

LLANYCHAER CHURCH.—The ancient church of this parish has fallen into such a state of decay as to make it impossible to retain it in its present state; it is, therefore, proposed to take it down entirely, and to erect a new building, following the same plan, with the addition only of a vestry. The character of the church will be as much as possible after the type of the South Wales Churches of the immediate neighbourhood. In taking down the present building the greatest possible care will be taken of any ancient fragment of old work.

FOREIGN.

CONSTANTINOPLE.—The works going on in the Seraglio at Constantinople, for the new railway station, have naturally brought to light many ancient remains in this hitherto inaccessible locality. Some large vaults are contested by local archaeologists, but among the various communications to the *Levant Herald*, the most weighty in authority, as yet, is that of the Rev. C. J. Curtis, who has so long laboured in local explorations. He considers the remains as those of the famous monastery of the Virgin, destroyed by Mohammed the Conqueror. One ground for this opinion is, that the ancient miraculous fountain has been continuously adored by the Greeks. Mr. Curtis considers the vaults to have been afterwards used as prisons. The Hon. J. Porter Brown, Secretary of the U. S. Legation, a distinguished orientalist, regards the vaults as the prisons of the Prætorian guards of the Lower Empire.

PARIS.—The Library of the Luxemburg Palace is now reopened; it had been closed in consequence of the explosion of the powder magazine, which had caused damages requiring repair. This explosion had shattered all the glass in the large gallery to which the public is usually admitted, and also that of the two principal annexes. The books, however, had all remained intact, and they are once more at the disposal of the public.

AMERICA.

A BONE Cave of Eastern Pennsylvania is attracting considerable attention. Mr. Wheatley states that he has obtained from it from 30 to 40 teeth of megalonyx, 3 in the jaw; and parts of 17 individuals of the sloth tribe. Professor Cope describes 41 species of vertebrate animals found in it, and Dr. Horn has described 14 species of insects. The locality of this cave is in the limestone quarries at Port Kennedy, Upper Merton Township, Montgomery County.

CICERO ON THE BALLOT.—The views which this great Roman politician held upon the vexed question of the ballot did not differ materially from those of his worthy grandfather before mentioned. The ballot was popular at Rome, —for many reasons, some of them not the most creditable to the characters of the voters; and because it was popular, Cicero speaks of it occasionally, in his forensic speeches, with a cautious praise; but of his real estimate of it there can be no kind of doubt. "I am of the same opinion now," he writes to his brother, "that ever I was; there is nothing like the open suffrage of the lips." So in one of his speeches he uses even stronger language: "The ballot," he says, "enables men to open their faces, and to cover up their thoughts; it gives them license to promise whatever they are asked, and at the same time to do whatever they please." Mr. Grote once quoted a phrase of Cicero's, applied to the voting papers of the day, as a testimony in favour of this mode of secret suffrage—grand words and wholly untranslatable into anything like corresponding English—"Tabella vindex tacite libertatis"—"the tablet which secures the liberty of silence." But knowing so well as Cicero did what was the ordinary character of Roman jurors and Roman voters, and how often this "liberty of silence" was a liberty to take a bribe and to vote the other way, one can almost fancy that we see upon his lips, as he utters the sounding phrase, that playful curve of irony which is said to have been their characteristic expression. Mr. Grote forgot, too, as was well pointed out by a writer in the *Quarterly Review*, that in the very next sentence the orator is proud to boast that he himself was not so elected to office, but by the "living voices" of his fellow citizens.—*Blackwood's "Ancient Classics," Vol. IX., "Cicero."*

MISCELLANEA.

THE OLDEST ENGLISH CANAL.—The first canal made in England connected the rivers Trent and Witham. It was begun in the reign of Henry I.

A series of extracts from the records of St. Michael, Cornhill, commencing in 1456, and illustrating the history of that church and parish, are being privately printed by Mr. A. J. Waterlow. It is stated that Mr. W. H. Overall, the Librarian to the Corporation of London, is editing the work.

ST. DUNSTAN'S STEPNEY.—The restoration of the ancient Church of St. Dunstan, Stepney, with which so many interesting events are associated, is contemplated.

PARIS FASHION FOR RIDING DRESSES IN JANUARY, 1797.—"The fashionable dress at Paris is a riding coat of satin, without sleeves, trimmed with sable. Neckerchiefs are absolutely proscribed. The shoulder and arms are naked, and the bosom half uncovered. The hat is of black velvet, with gold spangles."

TESTIMONIAL TO AN ARCHÆOLOGIST.—A movement is on foot in Rugby, to present Mr. Matthew Holbeach Bloxam with a testimonial, on his retirement from the office of Magistrates' Clerk, which he has held for many years. Amongst living archæologists Mr. Bloxam holds a deservedly high place, having devoted a large portion of his leisure towards the elucidation of his county's history. His works on architecture are well known, and have been translated into foreign languages, and form, with Rickman's celebrated work, the best books of ancient Gothic architecture.

DISCOVERY OF COINS.—On the 7th instant some navvies engaged in cutting the new line of railway between Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Hinckley, and Nuneaton, whilst working on the Harrow Farm cuttings, a short distance from the old Watling-street-road, one of them was pecking down the battery, when he broke into an earthenware jar, out of which tumbled some 200 or 300 small silver coins of various descriptions, greatly corroded. The jar was discovered about 18 inches below the surface.

A CURIOUS old cembalo, formerly the property of the Italian composer, Paër, has recently been sold at Milan—*Musical Standard*.

THE Museum of Science and Art in Bethnal-green is nearly complete, and will be ready for opening on an early day.

THE HORSE-SHOE CLOISTERS, WINDSOR CASTLE.—The restoration of this ancient pile of buildings is gradually verging towards completion. Wherever the materials of the ancient buildings were in a good state of preservation, as much as possible has been retained. In this way the old oaken roof beams and the wood-work of the covered way occupy their original positions, and the entire plan of the structure has been preserved even to many of the smaller details.

AN old historical scene is now in course of removal, to make room for the new street from St. Augustine's Back to Perry Road—we mean Steep Street, in which the Ship Inn was situated. It was in the Ship—though not in the same house—that the terrific hand-to-hand struggle occurred between Rupert's cavaliers and some Parliamentarians, who were not aware of the surrender by Finnes. The property belonged to the feoffees of St. Michael's parish, Bristol.

The ancient church of Shimpling, near Sudbury, Suffolk, has been thoroughly and carefully restored.

The parish church of Stradbroke, Suffolk, is about to be restored. The date of the edifice, with the exception of a small portion of the chancel, which is earlier, is of the fifteenth century. Before 1823, this church was full of very fine carved benching and screen work, but in that year they were all ruthlessly swept away, and not a vestige of them remains.

PASSION Plays were in great favour in Kilkenny during the fifteenth, sixteenth, and part of the seventeenth centuries.

THE final issue of the Early English Text Society's books for this year is now in the publisher's hands for distribution next week. It includes a curious collection of legends of the holy Rood, or Anglo-Saxon and early English poems on the Cross, with copies, from two early MSS., of illuminations of the instruments of Christ's torture.

THE TICHBORNE TRIAL.—In reference to the length of the Tichborne trial, a correspondent of the *Times* asserted recently that a trial on which Chaucer was a witness lasted through one whole century, and the latter part of the preceding and former part of the succeeding century. Upon this the writer of the *Guardian's* "Table Talk" observes—"The only trial of this kind in which Chaucer was a witness, so far, at least, as any of his biographers are aware, was the Scrope and Grosvenor controversy, which was commenced in 1385 and concluded in 1399, at which date Richard II. gave judgment in favour of Scrope. Grosvenor gave notice of appeal, but there the matter ended. Chaucer was examined in 1386. Commissions were sent to obtain evidence in different parts of England. The trial itself can only be said to have lasted a few days, and is often exceeded in length by an ordinary peerage case before the Committee of the House of Lords. The Grey and Hastings trial—also about a coat of arms—took place after Chaucer's death—namely, from 1401 to 1410; but proceedings had been commenced and postponed, owing to the minority of the defendant, as early as 1389. Sir Edward Hastings, being defeated, refused to pay the costs, for which he was imprisoned, and as his imprisonment lasted twenty-six years before a kind of compromise was made, the whole cause may be considered one of the longest on record—namely, from 1389 to 1437, when the defendant died. There has never, so far as we are aware, been any family of Rutland concerned in such a suit; nor did Chaucer give evidence in any but the Scrope case."

AN ANCIENT TICHBORNE CASE.—A correspondent writes to the *Spectator*—"There is a curious parallel in Roman history to the romantic trial which is exciting so much interest, Sextus, the heir of a noble family at Rome, had escaped from the ruin of his house under Commodus, by giving out that he had died. It became known that a ram had been burned in his stead at the funeral, and several persons suffered on suspicion; but his true fate was never ascertained. After the Emperor's death a claimant appeared for the rank and fortune of the missing nobleman. His appearance answered to that of Sextus, and he satisfied many persons of his identity by his replies to their questions. Pertinax, however, decided against him on account of his want of education. He had 'forgotten his Greek,' and was ignorant of philosophy, to which the whole Quintilian family had been ardently devoted. He is therefore considered an impostor by Dion Cassius, though it is possible that in nine precarious years of danger and disguise he may have unlearned language, while he practised the lessons of his early studies."

A CURIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE.—Some months ago it was reported in the New York journals that a fisherman of Trinity Bay had discovered in the inside of a cod-fish, which he had caught at that place, a signet ring, bearing the initials "P.B." The man kept the prize in his possession, and some time afterwards he received a letter from the Colonial Secretary, requesting him to send or bring the ring to St. John's, as he had received letters from a family named Barnam, in Poole, England, saying that they had reason to feel certain that the ring once belonged to Pauline Barnam, one of the passengers of the steamer Anglo-Saxon, wrecked off Chance Cove, in 1861. The fisherman took the ring to St. John's, and was there introduced to a Mr. Barnam, who recognised the ring as the wedding-ring of his mother. It was accordingly given up to Mr. Barnam, and he thereupon made the fisherman a present of 50l.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW-THE-GREAT.—Respecting the priory of St. Bartholomew-the-Great, it is stated that what remains of it is not about to be demolished. The City of London Union, however, have cleared away a house or two in the broad part of Bartholomew Close, and laid bare some half-submerged arches, once forming a portion of the Priory, but which, we believe, never constituted any portion of the "crypt" proper, which was built in the latter part of the twelfth century. The architecture is of a transitional Norman character, and, like most of these structures, it was divided into several compartments and used for stores. The property is thus described in a deed of sale from King Henry VIII. to Sir Richard Rich, Lord Chancellor, and dated May 19, 1554:—"The chief mansion or prior's house, with the appurtenances, consisting of the infirmary, the dormitory, the frater-house (or chapter-house), the cloisters, the galleries over them, the hall (or refectory), the kitchen, the woodhouse, the garner (or barn), and the prior's stables, all situated within the Close. The church within the Great Close to be a parish church for ever, and the void ground, 87 feet in length and 60 feet in breadth, next adjoining to the west side of the church to be taken for a churchyard." The sum to be paid was fixed at £1,064 11s. 3d.

THE PENN FAMILY.—"A Pedigree and Genealogical Notes from Wills, Registers, and Deeds of the highly distinguished Family of Penn, of England and America," has been compiled and published by Mr. James Coleman, genealogical bookseller, of High Street, Bloomsbury. The work, which is "designed as a tribute to the memory of the great and good William Penn," appears to be accurately got up, and is interesting through the accompanying wills, extracts from registers of burials, and other personal memoranda. It is also illustrated by fac-similes of the signatures and seals of Sir William Penn, and of his celebrated son, the founder of Pennsylvania.

BRIGHTON RACE CUP, 1871.—On the front panel of this elegant production is depicted an incident in the early history of Brighton, it having occurred in 1276, thus described by Holinshed:—"The Earl Warren, seventh Lord of the Manor of Brighton and Lewis, 'a man greatly beloved by the people,' was called among others before the Justices to shew cause why his landes should not be confiscated to the Crown;—in the language of an ancient chronicler—'he appeared, and being asked by what right he helde hys landes? he, sodenly, drawing forth an old rusty sworde, 'By this instrument,' sayde he, 'doe I holde my landes, and by the same I entende to defend them . . .'" The Kynge understode into what hatred of hys people by this means he was fallen, and therefore to avoid civill war and dissension that might thereby ensue, he left off his begun practice, so that the thing which generally should have been hurtfull to all men, was now sodenly stayed by the manhood and courageous stoutnesse of one man, the fore-said Earl."—This admirable racing trophy is a two-handled silver vase, partly gilt, decorated with modern English ornament, designed chiefly from the natural types, laurel and sea-holly—the two dolphins forming the charge of the town escutcheon being also introduced. The handles are supported by naiads, symbolical of the maritime situation of Brighton. The vase is mounted on an ebonized base supporting six surrounding pillars with gilt caps and bases, enclosing a fringe representing the race. This fine work of art is the production of Messrs. Elkington and Co., who were the successful competitors for its execution.

MUCH pleasure has been afforded by inspecting a picture, nearly finished, the production of Mr. Davis, jun., of Cranbourne-street, Leicester-square, a young painter of considerable promise. The subject is a charming landscape, aptly designated "A Peep at Saltash," representing a scene in

that locality. An artistic eye is manifested in selecting the point of view, and by the feeling with which the subject is treated. In the foreground a flock of sheep is seen advancing over the crest of a rising road, half their number passing under the shadow of some noble trees. The truthfulness with which the animals are depicted in their varied motions betray a keen observation of nature. In the distant valley, revealed through a sylvan opening, a river is beheld gliding brightly beneath the solar rays, while a skiff sailing slowly on its calm surface gives life to the water. Remotely beyond the river a low range of undulating hills appear, over which, far away, the blue horizon rests in hazy light. Altogether the effect is most bewitching, reminding one of the charm of a Gainsborough, without betraying any affectation after his style. Mr. Davis happily unites to his singular skill as an artist an unusual practical knowledge of the pigments with which he works, as indicated by the apparent mellowness of age which his pictures early acquire. In his *atelier* was seen one finished only a few months since, yet wearing the tone of a work over which many years had left their softening shade. His admirable and carefully executed canvas will become much coveted by collectors.

WET PHOTOGRAPHY WITHOUT A TENT OR DARK ROOM.—Through some inadvertence during the printing of our last issue, the following engraving became inverted. The diagram now appears in its correct position, a glance at which will enable any one to understand the process.

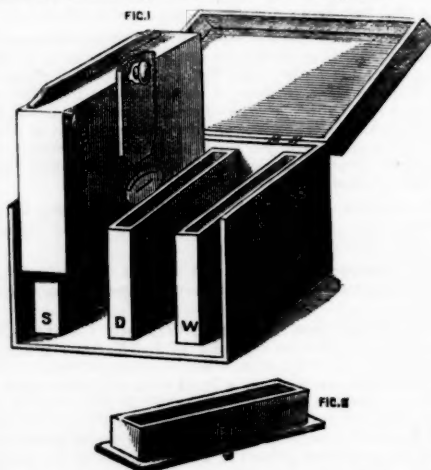


Fig. 1. A box with its lid open. One of its sides is removed in the drawing, to show the interior. It contains three upright baths filled to one inch of the top with the solutions (S, silver; D, developer; W, water). The baths have water-tight covers (not shown). The box will hold the camera, fig. 2, and everything required for work, excepting the tripod. P P is the plate-protector, shown as it appears immersing a plate. It serves the double purpose of a dipper and a dark slide, and is, in fact, a perfect substitute for either a dark room or a tent, at home or abroad. The invention is for sale, and may be seen at 97, Great Russell-street, Bloomsbury, where its practical working will be explained.

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